

Inside

Alaska Conveyance Status	3
Director Visit/ALT/ Olympic Rangers	4
Profile: Jeff Kowalczyk	5
Three New Gyms	6-7
Cool News	7
Never Forget poem	8

ALASKA People

What tiny rodent is the smallest mammal found in Alaska? (a) shrew (b) vole (c) lemming (d) hummingbird.

Answer: (a) shrew

February/March/April 2002



Alaska Land Transfer Program

still going strong after 30 years

When you ask ANCSA/State coordinator **Linda Resseguie** why the Alaska Land Transfer program is the largest and most complex land conveyance program ever, she responds in terms that employees working in Conveyances can truly appreciate and understand.

For the last 30 years, BLM-Alaska has been consumed with the gargantuan job of surveying and conveying millions of acres of land to Alaska Natives and the State of Alaska. Resseguie says statutes for transferring the land began with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) (December 1971). The Native Allotment Act of 1906 and the Alaska Statehood Act also figure prominently. The work to implement these laws is collectively known as the Alaska Land Transfer Program (ALTP).

Unlike the rest of BLM, the Alaska land transfer program drives most of BLM Alaska. Most of our budget goes toward adjudicating 16,000 Native allotment parcels, and transferring about 45.6 million acres to Native corporations and 104.5 million acres to the State of Alaska.

Although section 14(a) of ANCSA calls for patent to

Conveyances Says Goodbye to former Co-Worker. BLM Conveyances will no longer be able to call Carol Shobe at the State of Alaska anymore. Shobe, who once worked in the Conveyances' Alaska Land Transfer program during its infancy, is retiring. As the State's realty chief she's remained intimately involved with the conveyance of public lands to the state. (l-r) Conveyance branch chief **Ann Johnson**; Conveyances deputy director, **Brenda Zenan**; State's new realty chief Sandy Singer, Conveyances branch chief **Sharon Warren**, Conveyances coordinator Linda Resseguie; branch chief **John Toms**. Seated (l-r) State's realty chief Carol Shobe, Conveyances branch chief **Ramona Chinn**.

be issued immediately after selection, the authors of ANCSA had no way of knowing the considerable hurdles and barriers BLM would face to accomplish this task.

The challenges have been many. Resseguie says nothing like this has ever been done before "so in many cases we developed procedures as we went along." Ever-changing rules and regulations had their impacts. A huge challenge is processing Native allotment claims. Locating, surveying, adjudicating and then conveying Native allotment parcels can take decades to accomplish. Presently many of the outstanding Native allotment claims must be resolved before ANCSA corporations and the State can receive their respective entitlements. However, with less than 3,200 Native allotment parcels remaining, the focus is moving from Native allotments to ANCSA conveyances.

In 1998, the divisions of conveyance management and cadastral survey began developing statewide strategic plans for sunseting the Alaska Land Transfer Program. Lead transfer planner **Joe Labay** and survey planner **Craig Frichtl** are at the forefront working with villages, regions, the state and other federal agencies

continued on page 2

to develop these regional plans. Strategic planning allows BLM to complete all remaining land transfers systematically. "The sunset plan affords us a consistent approach towards accomplishing long term goals," says Labay. He adds that our adjudicators and cadastral surveyors have enough work for the next 14 years.

The ALTP has three distinct phases including preliminary adjudication and application approval, survey, and conveyance of lands to fulfill entitlements. Much of the work is done by the Division of Conveyance Management but all offices including the field offices provide critical support, services and information.

Current goals are to survey and convey land entitlement to complete 95 percent of all Native allotments (excluding Veterans Native allotment filings) by 2004 fiscal year, 95 percent of ANCSA land entitlements by 2010, and 95 percent of the statehood entitlements by 2012.

The next few years promise to be an exciting time in the ALTP's long history and given adequate and sustained resources, BLM will meet its challenges. Long time Conveyance employees like Resseguie and Labay may stick around because its those challenges and the ever changing complexity of the land transfer program which make their jobs so interesting.

—contributors to story—Ella Wright, writer-editor
Support Services; Brenda Zenan, DSD
Conveyance Management

Who's
who
in the
world of
Conveyances



Brenda Zenan,
Deputy State Director,
Conveyance Management.



Peering over maps are (l-r) land law assistants **Clemencia Florez** and **Laura Andrewyuk** (ANCSA Adjudication), land law examiners **Margaret McDaniel** (State Adjudication) and **Ken Butner** (Native Allotment Adjudication).

A blast from the past. This 1982 photo from our *Conveyance News* publication. Can you spot people still working for BLM? the ones who have retired? and the ones who left long ago? BLM state selections staff (l-r , front - **Rachel White, Ann Nagel, Evelyn Russel, Sue McWilliams, Jackie Monroe.** Second Row - **Willia Mae Shore, Bobbie Knudsen, Pat Moreno, Nora Vanassche, Dottie Liggett.** Back row - **Elizabeth Carew, Patsy Pearson, Fred O'Ferrell, Charlotte Pickering, Kathy Moore, Jody Reed, Marcia Walker, Joe Labay, Signa Thompson, Betsey Bonnell.** BLM goal for 1983 fiscal year was to tentatively approve or patent 13 million acres.



in the Division of Conveyance Management



Ramona Chinn,
br. chief, Policy & Review



John Toms,
br. chief, State, Native
allotments & ANCSA
adjudication



Ann Johnson,
br. chief, ANCSA
adjudication



Sharon Warren,
br. chief, Native
allotments &
Statewide Title
recovery

Alaska Conveyance Status Report

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act	Land Transferred thru 9/30/01	FY 2001 Totals	Entitlement
*Interim Conveyance	20,340,995.59	32,526.64	
Patent	17,119,483.05	597,247.81	
Total	37,460,478.64	629,774.45	45,618,357.15

To date, BLM has issued patents to 17.1 million acres of surveyed land, and 20.3 million acres of unsurveyed lands are under interim conveyance. The BLM must survey and patent an additional 28.5 million acres of land.

State	Land Transferred thru 9/30/01	FY 2001 Totals	Entitlement
*Tentative Approval	48,067,249.29	59,179.64	
Patent	42,249,694.00	119,778.42	
Total	90,316,943.29	178,957.42	104,525,000.00

To date, the State has received patent to 42.2 million acres of surveyed land, and 48.1 million acres of unsurveyed lands are under Tentative Approval. The BLM must survey and patent an additional 62.3 million acres of land.

Native allotments	Prior Year Totals	FY 2001 Processed	Cumulative Pending	Cumulative Pending
Title Recovery			1,120	
No Conveyance - Closed	2,501			2,514
Certificated - Closed	9,584	502		10,086
Awaiting Survey, Adjudica- tion, and Certificating	3,893		3,378	
Total Parcels	15,978	515		12,600

*Tentative approval - land to be conveyed to the state but lacks survey

*Interim conveyance - land to be conveyed to Native corporations but lacks survey



The Alaska Leadership Team held their quarterly meeting in February at the Alaska State Office. Participants include (above, l-r) **Carol Moore**, state budget officer, **Pam Stuart**, special agent; **Peter Ditton**, acting Anchorage Field Office Manager; **June Bailey**, associate AFO mgr, **George Oviatt**, Cadastral Survey division chief.



Despite budget, mining law and the Cobell litigation issues, the ALT members share a moment of levity at recent meeting. *right photo (l-r)*

Associate State Director **Linda Rundell**, Northern Field Manager **Bob Schneider**, Glennallen Field Manager **Ramone McCoy**. In the background is **Curt Wilson**, state planner.



Ed Bovy

BLM Director **Kathleen Clarke** being interviewed by reporter at the start of the Iditarod Sled Dog race in Anchorage. **Clarke** was in Alaska during the first week in March to get a first hand look at the famous sled dog race, drilling operations at the North Slope and meet with village community leaders. Reportedly she was most thrilled with a dogsled ride she took with **Julie Capps**, GIS geographer in Cadastral Survey. Capps, her dog team and the director made their way around Beach Lake (just outside Anchorage) with the director taking the reins at one point. **Al Breitzman**, ANCSA 14(c) specialist gave deputy director **Nina Hatfield** a ride on his sled dog team at the same time.

Olympic Rangers

During the Olympic games held in Salt Lake City in February, BLM rangers **Dave Stimson** and **Rohn Nelson** went pretty much unnoticed. They were assigned the Soldier Hollow venue approximately two square miles of backcountry where the cross



Dave Stimson and Rohn Nelson

country skiing and biathlon activities were held. They rotated assignments between riding snowmachines looking for bad guys says Rohn Nelson who works for BLM's Glennallen field office or doing surveillance of the area through night vision goggles or binoculars from a 4'x4' shack.

Stimson and Nelson were members of the 10,000+ law enforcement security force providing security for an average of 70,000 - 80,000 visitors every day for 17 days.

The Secret Service called the shots. "It was really neat to work with other agencies as one big team," says Nelson. The FBI and FEMA also had major security roles. Rohn and Stimson worked with them and many other agency employees. Stimson says of the taxing 12-hour days, "It was a good show of force. The media made it clear that there were thousands of us out there and it was enough to keep the bad guys away."

More than \$300 million in combined federal, state and local funds were allocated for security for the Winter Olympics.

profile

Jeff Kowalczyk, a self-described “obsessed outdoor fanatic,” is a member of the Northern Field Office’s Fortymile Team. The native Covina, Californian says, “Living in Alaska is like living in one huge park with a scattering of sovereign and maverick people.” Kowalczyk came to BLM-Alaska five years ago for the adventure, the challenge and being able to manage all kinds of recreation.

As an outdoor recreation planner, the residents and visitors to the Tok area are his primary customers. He advises them of recreational options, issues and manages special recreation permits, and writes environmental assessments.

Kowalczyk likes his job because he gets to influence users of public lands. He’s involved with the caring and preserving of the Fortymile River, the nation’s longest national wild and scenic river, and the Fort Egbert National Historic Landmark. “It motivates me to do it (the job) right the first time,” he says.

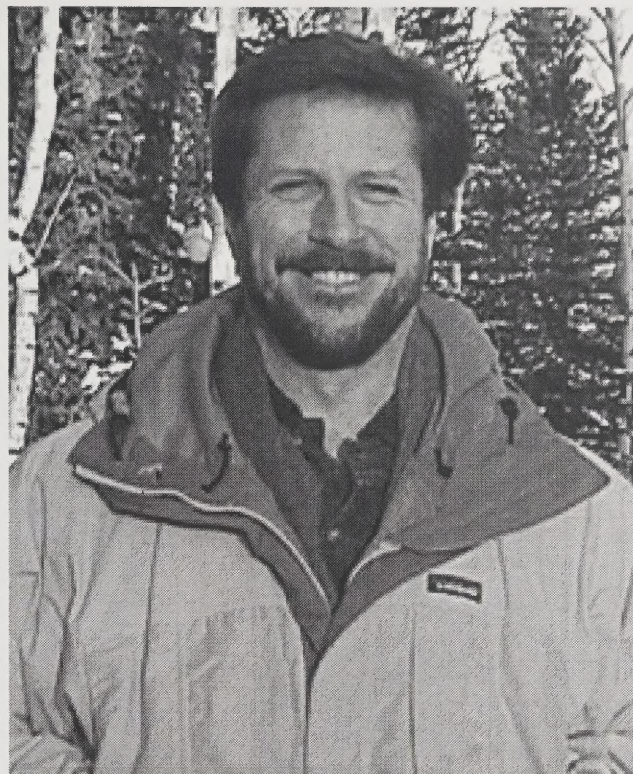
During his early BLM years, he lived alone at a ranger station in a “very large sand box” in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. He saw his share of BLM-authorized commercials and movies filmed in the dunes such as *Return of the Jedi*, *Patriot Games*, *Stargate* and *Tank Girl*.

His 16-year career with the federal government began with a stint in the U.S. Air Force. He wanted to be a park ranger so he enrolled in college where he did internships with BLM, Army Corps of Engineers, Forest Service, and the National Park Service. A few months after graduation, “I got picked up as a career employee with BLM,” says Kowalczyk, almost 10 years ago.

Relate a fond BLM memory. I came upon a little boy and girl waving down a ranger. A struggling cat was helplessly trapped in a campground vault toilet. I stopped my vehicle to help. We lowered a blanket for the cat to grasp and pulled it out. Wearing gloves, I wrapped the dirty, very wet and smelly cat in a another blanket. I put it in a cardboard box inside my vehicle and headed for the shelter. The box got soggy and the cat clawed its way out of the box and walked all over my vehicle. The next day I went back to the shelter to adopt the cat which had to be “put down” because it had suffered a viral infection. Despite that, I felt good that I had rescued it.

Name three major projects you’ve worked on during the past three years? The Fort Egbert Centennial celebration and several National Public Lands Day events with the community.

What the names of the most recent books you’ve read or are reading? *The Portable Jack* London by Ken Follet—appropriate and great reading for anyone associated with working the Fortymile area.



Jeff Kowalczyk Outdoor Recreation Planner

What is BLM’s weakest link? We need to recognize that we can check anti-government sentiment by supporting communities, increasing public involvement, coming up with new collaborative ideas, communicating and asking for outside opinions and suggestions, and continuing to hire locals for seasonal jobs.

What is your ultimate meal? Tornadoes with bernaïse sauce, artichokes with hollandaise sauce, and pistachio nut ice cream for dessert. Followed by a 13-mile Army hike to work off all those extra calories.

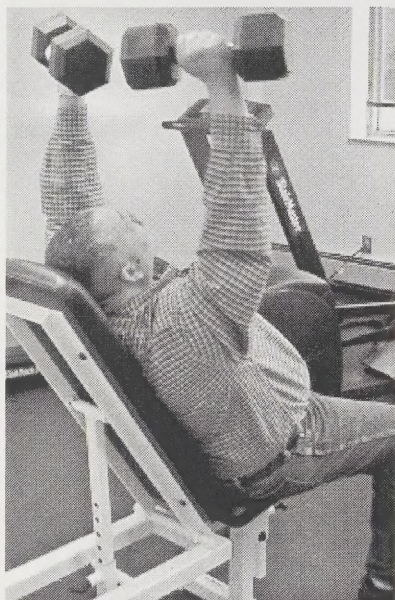
What habit would you like to break? I’d like to stop opening and reading a new book before I finish reading a current one.

What wonderful thing have you learned from working for BLM? I can use my frequent flyer miles earned from government travel for my personal use.

With many people out of work following the Sept. 11 attacks, do you think more people will be inclined to work for BLM or the federal government? I don’t feel the BLM gets enough exposure or recognition to influence or encourage folks to come work for us. High visible land management agencies such as the National Park Service or the Forest Service may see an increase in employment interest. *Written by Ella Wright, writer-editor with the Division of Support Services.*

Three New Gyms

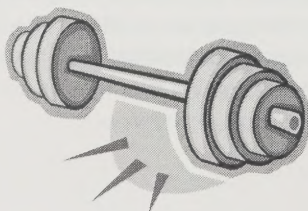
Up and Running



Giving the dumbbells a workout is Cadastral Survey's **Jessie Lopez** at the Campbell Tract's workout room.

Campbell Tract Facility

location: second floor, beyond vending/break room
equipment: treadmill, elliptical trainer, stairmaster, back/ab machine, 4-station weight machine, flat and incline benches, dumbbells
amenities: men & women showers
cost: none
contact: Ken Higgins, 267.1281



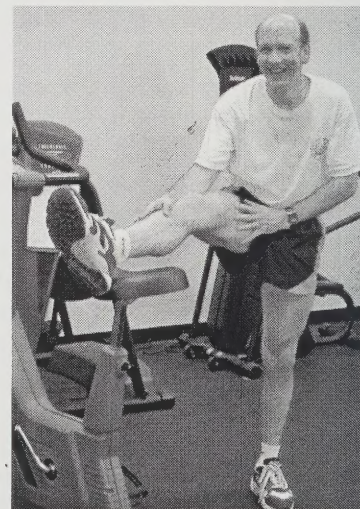
You can usually find (l-r) Cadastral Surveys' **Rhonda Reynolds** and **Dot Tideman** with the lunch crowd exercising at the fitness center at the federal building. Dot is using an elliptical trainer which is the center's most popular piece of equipment.

Glennallen Field Office

location: district manager's old bunk house
equipment: 5-weight stack multi-gym, treadmill, elliptical cross trainer
cost: none

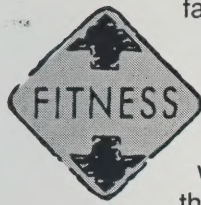
Anchorage Federal Building

location: ground floor, key card access
equipment: three elliptical trainers, recumbent & upright bicycles, steppers, four treadmills. Full complement of weight machines for full body workout, free weights, bench
amenities: cable tv, radio, towel service, toiletries, men & women's showers, day lockers
cost: \$10 per month; \$25 initiation fee
Managed by: Anchorage Federal Building Office Fitness Center Committee
BLM Contacts: Danielle Allen, 271.3335, Tony Reynolds, 271.3273



An avid runner, Conveyances' **Bruce Duffy** stretches before running on a treadmill at the federal building fitness center.

Three New Gyms continued



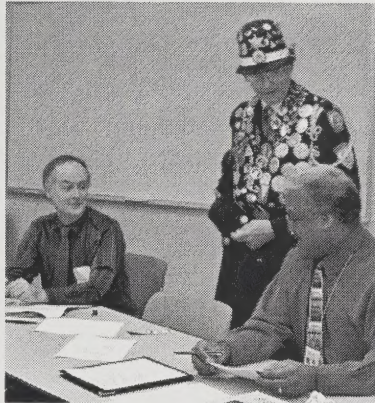
During the last 16 months, three new fitness facilities have come on line and BLM employees are realizing a workout bonanza. It began with the opening of the Anchorage

Federal Building Office Fitness Center in January 2001. The 1,140-square-foot fitness center (725 shower area) is the result of many years of on-and-off discussions between resident agencies and the GSA. Eventually a solid partnership between the GSA, the BLM, FAA, Social Security Administration and Weather Service culminated with the establishment of the fitness center. Currently, the federal building fitness center has 250 members and it's a toss-up between BLM and FAA who has the most members.

The seed of the Glennallen Field Office's workout area began two summers ago when employees solicited acting Glennallen Field Manager **Gus Panos** for a place to exercise. He successfully secured money for equipment and a portion of the old district manager's quarters was converted into an exercise area with the new equipment.

The push for a workout area at the Campbell Tract Facility came from safety officer **Ken Higgins**. He, like Panos, got the necessary support from Associate State Director **Linda Rundell**, an avid fitness enthusiast. Higgins says all three facility managers cooperated, office space was donated, and the maintenance and engineering staff converted the space. A grand opening was held in April and a trainer is being made available through donations.

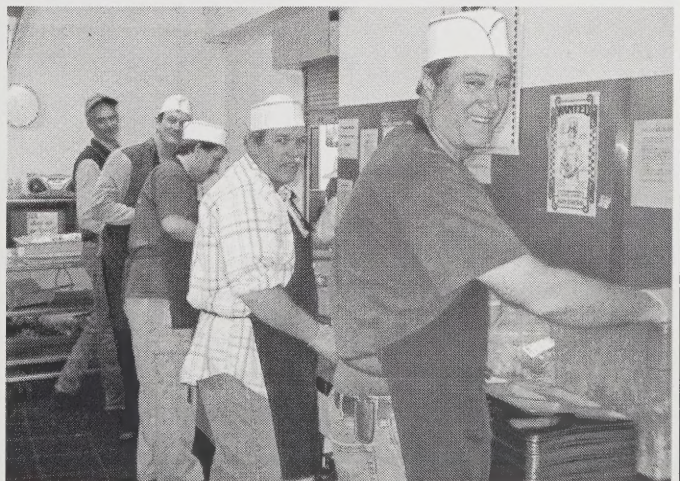
Cool News



SD Gives "Cop" the Slip. During Fur Rondy, keystone cop and former DSD for Conveyances **Wayne Boden** came to "arrest" State Director **Fran Cherry** for not owning a Fur Rondy button. Boden missed Cherry so he dealt with ALT members on hand. (l-r) **Ed Bovy**, acting public affairs chief, Boden and **Roy Walker**, EEO officer.

Lunch time at Beans Cafe. Serving food at Beans Cafe, a non profit organization which distributes meals to the needy, are (l-r) **Mike Wilson**, **Paxton McClurg**, **Rodney Huffman**, **Michael Carlton**, and **Carl Thorpe**. A long-time tradition, BLMers serve lunch at the cafe every third Wednesday of each month. Employees interested in participating should contact Marcia Hunt at 907.271.3692. The state director supports this community service and encourages employees to participate.

Did you know the State Office receives copies of each offices' telephone bills every month for review?



Humor & Law Enforcement Mix at ATV Workshop. Humor and law enforcement don't seem to go together but **Rohn Nelson**, Glennallen Field Office ranger, had just the right mix of humor and facts when making his presentation on techniques of effective law enforcement at the Alaska ATV and Snowmachine Management Workshop, Apr.5 in Anchorage. Nelson spoke candidly about policing the 225,000-acre Tangle Lakes Archaeological District and how education and a personal approach is his best means of keeping ATV users on trails and protecting valuable cultural resources. **Jake Schlapfer**, Anchorage Field Office outdoor rec. planner spoke about the cooperative management of the Iditarod National Historic Trail and **Bill Overbaugh**, state recreation planner is credited for helping bring the agencies, users, and special interest groups together to discuss ATV issues.

Procurement Doing Good. Kudos to procurement specialists **Sandee Smith**, **Terese Bertini**, **Alissa Varrati** for submitting consistently complete payment packages; for including thorough explanations with unusual submissions while being friendly, helpful, inquisitive and open to learning new things. They were recognized in the National Business Center's Payments Team newsletter, *Lets Talk Payments*.

Never Forget

(Dedicated to the people I worked with a Ground Zero)

Enter the Subway at 42nd Street
Nobody speaks in the tunnel of heat,
Only the Conductor, which sounds foreign to me
I stare at my boots and try not to think

Escape this train at Chambers Street
The smell hits me first. In the air it lurks
It invades my pores, my senses and more.
This Smoke is filled with Horror.

Erased from the living;
Transform the blaring
The smell of Misery, its all history.

Hardhat, ID, past security, no fear.
Not many women here.
Mostly Cranes, Iron Workers and Engineers.
So Lifelike, Dinosaurs almost appear
Digging and pulling and wrenching our Tears

I breathe the chemicals; I walk in their ashes.
I hear their stories and I feel the pain.
It's like a nightmare that won't restrain,

My home is far away; but no Subway is there
It's an honor to be here, the American way.

Shawna Legarza

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